August 25, 1976

Dear Harold and Lil,

I thought I'd drop you a line to let you know that I'm enjoying a nice view of beautiful downtown Singapore — from a hospital bed! I've just been accorded a special place in the Guiness book of records for having flown the farthest — more than 15,000 miles — just to have an appendectomy.

The past four days were really hell, the most painful I've ever experienced. My attack, which began in the wee ~~[illegible]~~ hours of Saturday morning, was first misdiagnosed as "kidney stones", in part because my appendix happens to have been located on my back rather than front side. This delayed the operation two days.

Incidentally, Harold, the international brother/sisterhood of IV injectionists sends its kind regards. My left wrist is inflamed, almost immobile, from IV feeding that went into my tissues instead of my veins.

Except for this one event, everything else is fine. Mary's family has been great. Jennifer has gained a full pound already. She understands (and can speak) some Chinese!

I'll be in the hospital at least two more days I think. I don't yet know whether this will interfere with our planned flight back on Sept. 1 or not. I hope not.

Hope everything is fine with both of you.

My best,